

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CU-02 VO-03 SCA-01 SCS-03
PPT-01 L-03 INSE-00 H-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
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P 100947Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3058

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, CGEN, CVIS, SHUM, CSCE, BU

SUBJECT: GOB REVISION OF PROCEDURES FOR AFFIDAVITS OF SUPPORT

REF: A) SOFIA 0530; B) SOFIA 0581

1. ON MAY 26 AN OFFICIAL OF CONSULAR DEPT, MFA, TOLD OUR
CONSUL THAT ACCORDING TO NEW MFA RULES ALL AFFIDAVITS OF
SUPPORT WOULD IN FUTURE HAVE TO BE AUTHENTICATED BY THE BUL-
GARIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, OTHERWISE THEY WOULD NOT BE
ACCEPTED BY BULGARIAN PASSPORT AUTHORITIES AS "LEGAL DOCU-
MENTS." THE OFFICIAL ALSO SAID THAT MFA OBJECTS TO EMBASSY HAVING
DIRECT CONTACT WITH BULGARIAN RELATIVES OF AMCITS FOR PURPOSE
OF DELIVERING AFFIDAVITS TO BE USED WITH GOB PASSPORT APPLI-
CATIONS. DEPT WILL RECALL LATTER POINT HAD BEEN MADE TO US
BEFORE (REF A) AND HAD BEEN TURNED ASIDE IN AMB'S CONVERSA-
TION WITH HEAD OF CONSULAR DEPT MARCH 17 (REF B).

2. AMB JUNE 9 CALLED ON DEPUTY FONMIN BORIS TSVETKOV AND
LEFT WITH HIM A "NON-PAPER" EXPLAINING THAT POSITION
TAKEN WITH RESPECT TO AUTHENTICATION OF AFFIDAVITS,
"IF ENDORSED BY SUPERIORS" OF THE OFFICIAL OF THE CONSULAR
DEPARTMENT, WOULD BE IN CONTRAVENTION OF ARTICLE 35 OF
THE CONSULAR CONVENTION OF APRIL 15, 1974. NON-PAPER
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SPELLED OUT THE WORDING OF THAT ARTICLE BUT AVOIDED ANY
IMPLICATION THAT WHAT OUR CONSULAR OFFICER HAD BEEN TOLD
REPRESENTED
A CONSIDERED BULGARIAN DECISION.

3. IN MAKING THIS PRESENTATION AMB POINTED OUT THAT
US-BULGARIAN RELATIONS ARE DEVELOPING VERY NICELY AS

EVIDENCED BY CURRENT VISIT OF MRS. ZHIVKOVA IN WASHINGTON AND WE DON'T WANT TO SEE ANY PROBLEMS ARISE UNNECESSARILY. POSITION TAKEN BY CONSULAR DEPT "IF CONFIRMED" WOULD LEAD TO A ROW AT THE VERY TIME WHEN WE ARE ABOUT TO SIGN ANOTHER INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH BULGARIA. INEVITABLY, SOMEONE WOULD THEN RAISE THE QUESTION WHAT WAS THE USE OF SIGNING A NEW AGREEMENT WITH BULGARIA IF THE ONLY ONE WE HAVE IN FORCE IS NOT BEING OBSERVED. AMB ALSO POINTED OUT THAT IT IS NORMAL PRACTICE OF CONSULATES TO DELIVER DOCUMENTS TO CITIZENS OF HOST COUNTRY AND "WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND" ANY EFFORT TO RESTRICT THIS.

4. TSVETKOV SAID THIS MATTER REALLY FALLS IN AREA OF COMPETENCE OF HIS COLLEAGUE, ZHIVKO POPOV (WHO, HOWEVER, IS OUT OF TOWN). AMB SAID HE HAD RAISED IT WITH TSVETKOV NOT ONLY BECAUSE POPOV IS AWAY BUT ALSO BECAUSE IT HAS DISAGREEABLE POLITICAL POTENTIAL. TSVETKOV THEN SAID THAT BULGARIA ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO ITS INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS AND THAT IT HAD ONLY RECENTLY

GIVEN SIGNS OF WILLINGNESS TO MAKE MAJOR EFFORT TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THE US (A REFERENCE TO THE MAREV CASE). HE PROMISED TO LOOK INTO MATTER ALTHOUGH HE TRIED TO ARGUE THAT GOING THROUGH MFA ON AOM CONSULAR MAKERS WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO EFFICIENCY AND GREATER CONVENIENCE FOR BULGARIANS INVOLVED.

5. COMMENT: REQUIREMENT FOR AUTHENTICATION BY BULGARIAN CONSUL, WASHINGTON IS NOT A RELIABLE PROCESS FOR SPONSOR-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ING AMCITS. WE AWARE OF CASES WHERE BULGARIAN CONSUL HAS REFUSED TO AUTHENTICATE AFFIDAVITS OF SUPPORT, THUS GOB WOULD BE ABLE TO PREVENT BULGARIAN RELATIVES FROM MAKING PASSPORT APPLICATIONS. IN LONG TERM THIS COULD MEAN THAT FEWER AND MORE SELECTIVE GROUP WOULD BE ABLE TO SPONSOR RELATIVES TO JOIN THEM AND GOB WOULD BE ABLE TO CLAIM THAT BULGARIAN RELATIVES NEVER APPLIED FOR PASSPORTS, THEREFORE THERE NO DIVIDED FAMILY CASE.

6. MORE IMPORTANT IS ATTEMPT TO CUT OFF OUR COMMUNICATION WITH THOSE INVOLVED IN DIVIDED FAMILY CASES BY HAVING ALL PAPER FLOW THROUGH GOB CHANNELS. DEPT AWARE FROM OUR PREVIOUS REPORTING ON DISCUSSIONS WITH MFA THAT EMBASSY KNOWLEDGE OF STATUS OF CASES MUCH BETTER THAN GOB. THIS HAS NOT ONLY BEEN OF EMBARRASSMENT TO MFA OFFICIALS BUT WORRISOME TO THOSE OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH "SECURITY" THAT EMBASSY VERY AWARE OF SOME ARBITRARY BUREAUCRATIC DECISIONS ON PASSPORT ISSUANCE.

7. WE ARE CONTINUING PRACTICE OF AUTHENTICATING AFFI-
DAVITS OF SUPPORT AND INFORMING BULGARIAN APPLICANTS
BY MAIL WHEN WE HAVE AFFIDAVITS FOR THEM, BUT RECOGNIZE
IT IS IN GOB POWER TO FORBID THEM TO RESPOND TO SUCH LETTERS.
HERZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0e15667f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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